

While I lost one of my great friends and best staffers, the Veterans' Affairs Committee gained a staff member with expert knowledge, exceptional political skill, and great character.

I have been so fortunate to continue to work with Mike on veterans issues even as I moved to the Senate. On the committee staff, Mike was instrumental in securing passage of the Montgomery G.I. bill. Later, he continued his work to improve education benefits, expand veterans' employment opportunities, and end homelessness among veterans while working for one of my close friends in the House, Representative LANE EVANS.

I am truly grateful to have been able to work with such a great friend for so long. Mike's wonderful smile, his dry sense of humor, and his amazing wealth of knowledge have meant so much to me over the years. I have had the pleasure of working with his wife Joey as well, and I know she and their son, Michael, will be happy to have him around the house a little more often during his retirement. While those of us who know his work are not yet ready to see him go, I wish him the best in this next stage of his life.

The veterans of this Nation will greatly miss the day-to-day service of this advocate who has dedicated his career to ensuring that our Nation meets its obligations to the men and women who serve it so bravely. I will miss greatly working beside my longtime friend. Mike, your record of service will be long remembered and appreciated in the Halls of the Congress and beyond. Good luck with your well-earned retirement.

GRANTING TAIWAN MEMBERSHIP TO THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, 3 years ago today, Chen Shui-bian was democratically elected President of the Republic of China on Taiwan. Under President Chen's strong leadership, Taiwan has remained true to its democratic values and has continued to be a model for its neighbors in the region. But as the Taiwanese people prepare to celebrate the third anniversary of their President's election, they also are struggling to contain the recent outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, SARS, in their country. The WHO's refusal to grant membership or even observer status to Taiwan has hindered the Nation's ability to halt the spread of SARS, and has placed the health of all 23 million Taiwanese in jeopardy. This crisis highlights Taiwan's urgent need to obtain observer status in the WHO.

I urge the WHO to give Taiwan access to all the resources it needs to fight SARS so that President Chen can be as successful in the coming years as he has been during the last 3.

I ask unanimous consent that the following op-ed on this topic by President Chen that appeared in the Washington Post on May 9 be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Washington Post, May 9, 2003]

HELP TAIWAN FIGHT SARS

(By Chen Shui-bian)

The outbreak and spread of severe acute respiratory syndrome, or SARS, has brought illness, death and economic peril to Asia and the rest of the world. It has also drawn attention to Taiwan's exclusion from the World Health Organization. If there was ever a time for my country to be allowed to join the WHO, it is now.

As Taiwan's democratically elected president, my first and foremost obligation is to the people of Taiwan. When SARS first appeared in Taiwan in March, our health system responded quickly and effectively. As a result, Taiwan initially achieved a record of zero mortality, zero community transmission and zero transmission abroad of SARS. But despite our efforts, another outbreak occurred in late April. We have taken strict measures in response, and are working day and night to contain the disease.

Throughout this health crisis, my government has acted in the best interest of our people and of foreign nationals living in and visiting Taiwan. At no time has my administration suppressed information about the disease. Our press has reported freely on SARS. More important, our officials know that they are accountable to the people, both morally and at the ballot box. Whatever problems arise for Taiwan, we will solve them according to the highest standards of medicine, government accountability and human compassion.

I also have an obligation to the world. Taiwan is a nation of 23 million people and a major trading partner for many countries. What happens in Taiwan affects many millions more around the world. For that reason, Taiwan immediately offered to work with the WHO in combating SARS. Unfortunately, we were rebuffed. However, in response to the most recent rise in the number of cases, and for the first time in decades, two experts from the WHO arrived in Taiwan last week. I welcome this assistance and have directed my government and called on my people to cooperate fully with them.

The WHO's decision to send these experts to Taiwan has great significance. It demonstrates that Taiwan is indispensable to international public health. But it also suggests that cooperation between the WHO and Taiwan should not be left to ad hoc arrangements.

Despite my country's advanced health system, staffed by doctors and nurses educated in highly respected institutions at home and abroad, and despite a strong desire to participate in the WHO, Taiwan is denied membership or even observer status in the organization. As a consequence, our epidemiologists are still unable to gain prompt access to information, such as samples of the virus, that could help our scientists learn about the disease and treat patients. Nevertheless, we have tried to provide information to international organizations to ensure that Taiwan can make the maximum contribution to solving this health problem.

The effort to understand and control SARS continues. Viral experts seek answers to important questions. Doctors and health professionals on the front line of the battle against SARS need as much information as possible to be able to deal with the disease. Moreover, like the WHO, international health officials need as much data as possible about SARS and the way it behaves in different environments and among different populations.

Taiwan, with a population larger than those of three-quarters of the countries of the world, is a piece of a global puzzle that experts need to understand to cope with the virus. Taiwan has long wanted not only to benefit from the WHO's expertise but also to share the responsibility that all countries have to global public health. Many health care professionals around the world have expressed their support for Taiwan's admission to the WHO as an observer. We are grateful.

We hope that at the WHO meeting on May 19, this important organization will invite Taiwan to be an observer. Taiwan's people should not be excluded from efforts to defeat SARS. Nor should the rest of the world be denied the important contribution Taiwan can and wants to make to global health.

HONORING PRIVATE DANNY J. KEOGH

Mr. REID. Mr. President, on March, 17, 1953, Private Danny J. Keogh, an Irish citizen and a resident of the State of Nevada, gave his life for America while fighting in the Korean War. Private Keogh's story is a tale of exemplary courage. After living and working in Sparks, NV for 4 years, Private Keogh was drafted to serve in the U.S. Army during one of our Nation's most difficult hours. Private Keogh served valiantly with the 9th Infantry Regiment of the 2nd Infantry Division until he fell to enemy mortar fire on March 17 when his position on Hill 355 of Little Gibraltar came under attack from Chinese forces.

Today I rise to honor Private Keogh and to thank his family for the sacrifice that this brave young man made for our country. Private Keogh's family has long sought American citizenship for their fallen loved one, and I pledge my support for this cause. Those who are willing to make such great sacrifices for our Nation and our liberties have earned the title of United States citizen, and deserve a special place in the hearts of all Americans.

Our duty to honor those who serve on the front lines of our battle against tyranny, terrorism and hatred has become especially poignant in the wake of our recent war with Iraq. I am pleased that Congress included language in the Department of Justice Authorization bill last year to allow fallen heroes to receive the honor of citizenship. Efforts like this, and a strong commitment on the part of educators like Assemblyman Bernie Anderson, Private Keogh's cousin to teach the next generation of Nevadans about the sacrifices made in defense of our freedoms, are essential for keeping America and our democratic ideals strong. I salute Private Keogh and his family and look forward to the day very soon when this American hero will finally become an American citizen.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2003

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. On May 1, 2003, Senator KENNEDY and I introduced the

Local Law Enforcement Act, a bill that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

I would like to describe a terrible crime that occurred in Humboldt, Nebraska. Brandon Teena, 21, was brutally raped, beaten, and killed by two "friends." Teena, who had been living as a man, befriended John Lotter and Tom Nissen when she moved to Humboldt. After a local newspaper revealed Teena's true identity as anatomically female, Lotter and Nissen became enraged. On Christmas Day 1993, the pair beat and raped Teena. A week later the men stabbed and shot Teena to death.

I believe that government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act is a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

MIKE JENDRZEJCZYK: A LEGEND IN HUMAN RIGHTS

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, all of us who knew him and admired him and worked with him were deeply saddened earlier this month by the sudden and untimely death of Mike Jendrzeczyk, and we extend our deepest condolences to his wife Janet and their family during this difficult time. Mike was one of a kind, and his ability and dedication, his tireless energy, his wonderful personality, and his many achievements for human rights will always be remembered.

I met Mike soon after he came to Washington more than a decade ago to work on human rights issues in Asia for the Washington, D.C. office of Human Rights Watch. Mike's work benefitted all of us who care about promoting respect for human rights. We quickly learned that his last Name was easy to pronounce even if we could never spell it. During the debates on most-favored nation trade status for China, he was a constant adviser to Senators and staff alike on the human rights aspects of the issue. He also helped draft legislation on a code of conduct for U.S. companies operating in China, and his proposals set the standard for many human rights codes developed by those firms.

I last saw Mike earlier this year as he escorted Xu Wenli, one of the many Chinese dissidents he assisted, on a round of visits to meet with members of Congress. He greeted me with his trademark good welcome and the unforgettable spirit and drive he brought to all his work. He was loved by everyone and his death is a great loss for all of us, and for the cause of human rights he served so brilliantly.

I ask unanimously consent that a series of articles on Mike be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the New York Times, May 4, 2003]

MICHAEL JENDRZEJCZYK, 53, ADVOCATE FOR
ASIANS, DIES

(By Elizabeth Becker)

Michael Jendrzeczyk, a human rights expert whose advocacy on behalf of victims in Asian nations made him an unlikely power broker in Washington, died on Thursday. He was 53 and lived in Tacoma Park, Md.

He died after collapsing during a walk near his office in Washington, has wife, Janet, said.

During more than a dozen years at the Washington office of Human Rights Watch, Mr. Jendrzeczyk (pronounced jen-DREE-zick) established himself as the Capitol's leading expert on Asian human rights, routinely testifying before Congress, writing opinion articles for newspapers and promoting his causes.

He made his name after the 1989 Chinese military action in Tiananmen Square by encouraging the United States to demand that the victims be protected or, at least, accounted for.

He later became prominent in Asian human rights issues like the protection of refugees from North Korea, ending financial assistance to the military government in Burma, connecting human rights to free trade and defending the religious freedom of Tibetans in China and Montagnards in Vietnam.

What set him apart from advocates was his mastery of details of subject as well as his networks of contacts with officials, academics and dissidents he helped protect.

The House Democratic leader, NANCY PELOSI of California, said it would be "difficult to count" the contributions Mr. Jendrzeczyk made in his promotion of human rights.

"We can point to famous dissidents who have been released from prison because of Mike, but there are tens of thousands of ordinary people, whose names we'll never know, whose lives were improved by his work," she said.

Mr. Jendrzeczyk, who was born and reared in New Britain, Conn., was a graduate of the University of Hartford. He joined the Army reserve during the Vietnam War but was discharged as a conscientious objector.

He taught at a preschool while protesting the Vietnam War and working in the civil rights movement. He became a peace advocate for the Fellowship of Reconciliation in Nyack, N.Y., and for Amnesty International in New York and London.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by his sister, Lynn Ashmore of Willimantic, Conn.

He joked about the difficulty of pronouncing his surname, telling others not to waste their time learning to say it or spell it, but just to call him Mike J. His easy manner was partly responsible for his wide reach.

Establishing himself in the relatively new field of human rights advocacy in Washington, Mr. Jendrzeczyk broke ground as a lobbyist for a cause without any obvious base of support. Susan Osnos, former associate director of Human Rights Watch, said he used information to promote his ideas.

"Over the years he evolved into someone who worked well in Washington, creating two-way streets that are the bread and butter of getting things done, especially when you are advocating things that people aren't naturally interested in," she said.

His constituents were the Asian dissidents who might have remained faceless without Mr. Jendrzeczyk's interventions. Tibetans,

Burmese, Chinese, Indonesians and other dissidents came to rely on him as their most reliable voice in Washington. When the Chinese dissident Liu Qing was released after 11 years in prison, Mr. Jendrzeczyk took him around Washington to explain to policy makers the human consequences of their votes. Today Mr. Liu works for the New York-based Human Rights in China.

During the final years of the Clinton administration, Mr. Jendrzeczyk took many dissidents to meet Harold Hongju Koh, a Yale law professor who was then an assistant secretary of state for human rights. Mr. Koh said while Mr. Jendrzeczyk pressed for countless changes in foreign policy to reflect human rights concerns he was never irritated by his demands.

"You start out in a professional relationship with him and end up considering him a dear friend," Mr. Koh said. "He was one of those happy warriors who never let you forget that you are holding a job not for personal gain but for the betterment of American policy."

[From the Washington Post, May 4, 2003]

A QUIET CHAMPION

In the culture of federal Washington, no doubt as in all cultures, there is a class of people who accomplish much by seeking little credit. These people bring information to reporters, suggest legislative language to Senate staffers, introduce experts from different fields to promote collaborations. Some do this work for profit, others for principle. One of the latter was Mike Jendrzeczyk, who died unexpectedly Thursday at age 53. He was far more influential than famous, and his death is a setback to the cause of freedom in Asia.

For Mr. Jendrzeczyk was in that subset of Washington achievers known as human rights advocates. Specifically, he was the Washington director of the Asia division of the nonprofit organization Human Rights Watch. He was not the sort of human rights champion who sneaks into totalitarian countries and emerges with damning videotape, nor did he devote much time to rhetoric or arcane points of international law and doctrine. Mr. Jendrzeczyk believed in getting things done. His ambitions were lofty, but they never stood in the way of accomplishment. He would rather see two dissidents freed from Chinese prisons than one, but he would take one over zero—and over the years, the number of political prisoners who owed their liberty in large part to his persistence grew to a formidable total. He would have liked to have seen democracy in China and Burma and Vietnam yesterday if not sooner, but he worked hard for intermediate steps: a loosening of political control, an improvement of conditions for workers, a visit by a United Nations human rights commissioner.

Those who knew Mike were always amazed at his perpetual cheerfulness even as he sought to bring attention to the worst horrors of human cruelty, to the sufferings of North Korean refugees and Burmese child laborers. He understood that human rights would always compete with commerce and security and other national interests in the formulation of foreign policy; he just wanted the voices of the oppressed not to be drowned out altogether. He was influential in part because his passion never diminished his honesty; if you asked for the best argument on the other side, he would deliver it, probably more eloquently than its true champions could. He influenced us, and will continue to do so.

HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH MOURNS DEATH OF ASIA ADVOCATE MIKE JENDRZEJCZYK

NEW YORK, May 2, 2003.—Human Rights Watch is deeply saddened to announce the